



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/712,056

11/14/2003

Setsuji Tatsumi

08780001AA

9030

7590

03/27/2006

Whitham Curtis and Christofferson, PC
Suite #340
11491 Sunset Hills Rd.
Reston, VA 20190

EXAMINER

TRAN, LY T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2853

DATE MAILED: 03/27/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/712,056

Applicant(s)

TATSUMI ET AL.

Examiner

Ly T. TRAN

Art Unit

2853

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11/25/06
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 7-36 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Claims 7-36 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention/species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 10/19/05.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Janosky (EP 1407893) in view of Higuma et al (USPN 6,332,679)

With respect to claims 1-6, Janosky discloses a surface treatment apparatus comprising:

- A sheet heating unit (fig.1, fig.2: element 22) which heats a sheet (14);
- A contact member (fig.2: element 26) for transferring a surface quality thereof to a surface of the image recording layer;
- A sheet cooling unit (fig.2: element 38) which cools the sheet while in contact with the contact member;

- A plurality of contact members (fig.2: element 28, 30, 32, 26) having different surface qualities;
- A contact member selecting unit which selects a contact member having a desired surface quality from the plurality of contact member having a different surface qualities (Column 3: line 41-58);
- The contact member is a member is a member selected from a roller and an endless belt (Fig.2: element 30, 26);
- A surface quality of the contact member is varied so that one of a gloss treatment and a matt treatment is given to the sheet (Column 5: line 3-30);
- A user information providing unit for providing user information containing the contact member surface quality data (Column 4: line 1-3);
- The contact member selecting unit, a desired surface quality if selected based on user information provided by the user information unit (Column 4: line 1-3, Column 6: line 30-37).

However, Janosky fails to teach the sheet having at least a base, a recording layer and a thermoplastic resin layer.

Higuma teaches the sheet having at least a base and a thermoplastic resin layer (Column 3: line 40-45).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to coat the substrate with a thermoplastic resin layer as taught by Higuma. The motivation of doing so is to provide a permeation property and to prevent retaining mush of the inks and color material.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's first arguments filed 1/25/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that Janosky fails to teach transferring a surface quality to a surface of the image-recording layer. This argument is not deemed to be persuasive because referring to figure 2, after the image is recorded on the sheet 14, the sheet 14 is transported to lamination unit with the heater belt and the drive roller 24, when the sheet 14 is interposed between the heated belt 26 and the roller 24, the outer surface of the belt is transferred onto the sheet 14. Therefore, Janosky still meets the limitation of the claim.

4. Applicant's second arguments with respect to claim 1 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection of page 2 above.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ly T. TRAN whose telephone number is 571-272-2155. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:30am-5pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Meier can be reached on 571-272-2149. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LT

March 9, 2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Meier', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

STEPHEN MEIER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER